

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, September 5, 1991/ Bhadra 14,  
1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. NO. 691, Shri  
Mudala Giriappa.

Not here. Shri Sudhir Giri.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Q. NO.682. (Inter-  
ruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN): Excuse  
me for coming late.

### Constitution of Commodity Manage- ment Board

\*692. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the  
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether the Commodity Manage-  
ment Board for export and import of agricul-  
tural commodities has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C.  
LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply at (a)  
above.

(c) A proposal for constitution of the  
Commodity Management Board for export  
and import of agricultural commodities is  
under consideration of the Government.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sorry for coming  
late.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Sir, in respect of  
the agricultural goods export, the Govern-  
ment's objective is to maximise it for earning  
foreign exchange but at the same time, it  
should be kept in view that domestic availa-  
bility of essential commodities for mass  
consumption at reasonable prices is en-  
sured.

I think, when the Government analysed  
the export growth of agricultural goods, they  
have not taken into consideration, the inter-  
est of the people who are living below the  
poverty line. They have imported edible oil  
etc. for keeping the prices under control. All  
these things have taken place due to lack of  
coordination between the producers, the  
exporters and others. This has necessitated  
setting up of Goods Management Commit-  
tee for export.

In view of this, may I know from the hon.  
Minister by which time such Board will be  
constituted?

SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker,  
Sir, there are already seven Boards- the Tea

Board, the Coffee Board, the Rubber Board, the Spices Board, the Tobacco Board, the Marine Products Exports Development Authority and the Agricultural Processed Food Products Development Authority. These Boards come under the Ministry of Commerce. They deal with them.

There had been an idea, for quite a long time, regarding this question which he has raised now. There was also a question as to how to coordinate this thing. Because this has been envisaged under the Ministry of Agriculture. So, we are just giving a thought to it. We have just take it over and we will find out a formula which can be viable and workable.

I have also referred it in my speech here that I am considering it, taking the advice and also having discussions with other concerned authorities so that we can find out something which will be in the best interest of the farmers and promotion of export of the agricultural commodities which is so dearly required.

**SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:** The constitution of Boards for other commodities has definitely helped the export growth. So, may I know from the hon. Minister, whether, in constituting Management Boards for agricultural goods for their exports and imports, the consumers, producers and the exporters will be taken into those Boards.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** We have to take into consideration the interest of all as well as the advice of all.

**SH. ANANDGAJAPATIRAJU POOSAPATI:** The hon. Minister has just now mentioned that there are quite a few Boards to deal with various commodities. But are these Boards dealing with economising and compression of imports and optimising exports? Are these Boards coordinating among themselves to see that there is some benefit when a bulk order is made in this country in terms of imports? What steps the Government has taken to see that the UNCTAD, which is supposed to form a trade organisa-

tion, that imports and exports are made beneficial for the developing countries? Has the Government taken any steps to see that these Boards are further strengthened?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The question remains the same. We have now got the following commodities which do not have any specific Board Authorities.

Wheat

Rice

Oilseeds

Oilseeds extraction

Grains

Cashew

Pulses

Sugarcane

Meat and meat products.

So, we have to coordinate these commodities. The Tea and Coffee Boards take a cumulative effect for production as well as export and processing and marketing of these commodities. And we have tried to promote all these commodities for a better performance and better results and remunerative prices for the farmers. I think, they have done a good job. We are also reviewing them. But as far as international discussions are concerned, we have still to go further into them and decide our future course of action.

**SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN:** Cotton is one of the main crops in our country. Now its production has been doubled since 1976. Now, we are producing more than one crore of cotton bales per year. Last year, we exported cotton bales worth huge amount. We have now brought them into the market. Since cotton has become a very important export commodity—There are Coffee and Tea Boards; but there is no Cotton Board; there is only a Cotton Advisory

**Committee-** will the Government consider constituting a Cotton Board so that it would help this industry as well as the agriculturists.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The answer remains the same.

**SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** The hon. Minister has said that there are certain Boards for these commodities especially the cash crops. The Minister while replying to the debate on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that there are good possibilities of exporting rice and wheat also and he thinks that India can be one of the major exporters of wheat and rice at least which are not till now supposed to be cash commodities. Keeping in view the possibility of greater export of rice and wheat from our country, will the Minister consider of having a Committee under the Ministry of Agriculture, which can plan the future production also and plan in advance the export of these commodities?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** I absolutely agree with the hon. Member.

[Translation]

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Agriculture is himself a big farmer and he has great sympathy with the farmers... (Interruptions)... No, has sympathy with farmers. He has a lot of experience in the field of agriculture. I want to know whether farmers will also be allowed to export their produce directly under the new liberalised policy relating to export and import. Whether Government is going to formulate any policy in this regard? Will hon. Minister consider over it sympathetically.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The policy in this regard already exists. Some people also do export. Grapes and other fruits are exported by the people directly. In this regard, we give incentives as much as possible. There is no restriction on it.

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** I want to know about wheat and rice.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** It will be considered if any body comes to a position to export of wheat and rice. But it is only the first year. It will be possible only if production increases. Now 5 lakhs or 10 lakhs tonnes will not satisfy me. I want to get more production. We have to increase production only then it will solve the purpose. We want the goods in bulk.

[English]

**SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM:** I think the hon. Minister is aware that Basumati rice is in great demand, particularly in the Gulf countries. I have had the opportunity of visiting these countries and I was told that Indian Basumati rice, which is in no way inferior to Pakistani rice, is imported some times through proper channels, some times illegally. And after being imported in these Gulf countries it is sold there as Pakistani rice because Pakistani rice is more popular in the Gulf than Indian rice on account of lack of administration, lack of advertisement and lack of incentive which is to be given to the exporters. May I know from the Minister whether he is aware of this situation and if he is, is he prepared to make some arrangements to see that suitable incentive is given to the agriculturists to produce more Basumati rice and explore the possibility of exporting more rice under Indian brand name to the Gulf countries and other countries, wherever it is in demand.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** Absolutely, that is the call of the hour. We want to export as much as possible and for that every effort will be made to promote and to safeguard the name also. That I will take care.

[Translation]

**SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:** Sir, I want to know whether Government is going to declare special incentives to the farmers for boosting exports. I want to know specifically about special incentives. Does

Government propose to give the same incentives in the matter of export to the farmers as are given to other people.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The policy which is applicable to other, is also applied to farmers. In this regard, there are not different policies. As far as granting of special incentives is concerned, we will consider it. We are thinking about it. At present we export raw material, fruits, rice and wheat only. But for the purpose of exporting processed food, we have to arrange technical know how and quality control. We have to compete with others. We are trying to develop infrastructure for it.

**SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether we export the surplus commodities only or we export such commodities also which are produced less than our requirements? if we export such commodities, their prices will increase here. There is a saying in Gujarat "Gnarna Shokra Ghanti Chate Aur Upadhyayane Aato". What is your policy in this regard. Which commodities we are exporting? Do we export surplus commodities only or export those commodities also which are in scarcity.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** It can never be thought. How a person can give alms when he is himself hungry. The question does not arise. (Interruptions)

**SHRI P.C. CHACKO:** Some of the Commodity Management Boards constituted for the purpose mentioned by the hon. Minister have not taken off so far; especially the Coconut Development Board is not able to carry out its functions because of the paucity of the funds. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state, what are the steps taken for strengthening the functioning of the Coconut Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I think these Boards are with the Commerce Ministry.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** I think we will take care of this project this year.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:** Sir, marine products is another area of agriculture.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Some of these boards are not with the Agriculture Ministry and they are with the Commerce Ministry.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:** Marine products come from the agriculturists..... (interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Marine board and Tea board are coming under the Commerce Ministry.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:** Marine products are being exported. It might be with the Commerce Ministry or with the other Ministry.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Agriculture Minister may not have all the information.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:** I want to know from the Minister, in view of the fact that there is a great demand and possibility whether the Agriculture Ministry is thinking to have a better planning to export agricultural products and give more incentives to the producers.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** It is always our endeavour to produce more and export more. And we will try to give something more. Naturally, promotion of exports is the prime motive at this time. We have a Fisheries Conference in Europe about this marine products, where people from all over the world will attend. I think, we will get something more in knowledge, collaboration and cooperation.

[Translation]

**SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said just now that wheat will be exported. I want to know the reasons behind reducing the quota of wheat being distributed at subsidised rates as a result of which people in Rajasthan, particularly in tribal areas, are dying of hun-

ger. Will the hon. Minister give an assure to restore the quota of 10 kilogram of wheat per unit?

MR. SPEAKER: The reply has already been given just now. 9

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know the from hon. Minister whether Government propose to set up an Export Centre between Kumaun and Bareilly Division keeping in view that much expenditure has to be incurred on transportation of rice to Delhi for onward transmission for export. If so, by when?

MR. SPEAKER: Export comes under the Ministry of Commerce. Don't link it with other things.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, rice is exported and it comes under his Ministry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will the Minister like to respond to this?

SHRI BALRAMJAKHAR: There is nothing in it. I can reply to his question. He can come to me and we can talk it over with the Commerce Minister.

[Translation]

10-22

Post offices upgraded during Seventh Plan

\*693. SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-  
 OUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNI-  
 CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in various States and Union Territories upgraded during the Seventh Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) the number of post offices upgraded in Ranchi district of Bihar during the above period; and

(c) the details thereof

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
 MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI  
 P.V. RANGAYYANAIDU): (a) to (c). A State-  
 ment is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) The information is furnished in the attached Annexure.

(b) and (c). No Post Offices were up-  
 graded in Ranchi District of Bihar during the  
 7th Five Year Plan.